

Shimon Sentenced Up to Four Years In Hotel 'Bugging'

By Charles Rabb
Staff Reporter

Retired Police Insp. Joseph W. Shimon was sentenced to 16 months to 4 years in prison and fined \$2500 yesterday for his role in the Mayflower Hotel "bugging" case.

Rejecting Shimon's appeal for a suspended sentence, U. S. District Court Judge William B. Jones called the former inspector's conspiracy conviction "a poison to the very system of justice he was sworn to uphold."

The 57-year-old Shimon was convicted last July 14 of conspiring to induce private detective Wayne G. Barber to lie to a grand jury about ownership of a tiny transmitter that was found in 1962 in the suite of Malcolm T. Dungan, a San Francisco attorney. Shimon was also found guilty of attempting to carry out the conspiracy.

Judge Jones handed out identical prison terms on each count, but said the sentences would run concurrently.

A dapper figure in a dark business suit, the graying ex-inspector fidgeted nervously with his fingers as sentence was pronounced.

His attorney, C. William Taylor, said an appeal was

planned. Shimon's personal bond was continued.

Before sentencing, Tayler told the court that if there was to be any "balance" in handing out punishment, then a suspended sentence was indicated. Others who were involved in the incident received little or no punishment, he said.

"Joseph W. Shimon was one of the department's truly outstanding officers," Tayler declared. "This one episode should not wipe out 33 years of splendid service to the community and the Metropolitan Police force."

But Judge Jones noted that Shimon held a rank just below deputy chief and stressed the critical role of the grand jury.

Three private detectives already have been convicted of operating the electronic eavesdropping device in violation of the Federal Communications Act.

But the final chapter in the complex story remains to be written. Still unclear is who initiated the bugging of Dungan's suite. The attorney at the time was representing El Paso Natural Gas Co. in Federal Power Commission hearings on a \$160-million pipeline franchise application.